

RUTHIN RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

For the

Year Ended 31st December, 1949

By the

Medical Officer of Health

(Dr. T. O. JONES)

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Ruthin Rural
District Council.*

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report upon the Sanitary condition of the District, with various statistics, for the year ended 31st December 1949.

Area (in acres)	101,032
Estimated Population	9,305
Rateable Value	£42,632
Sum represented by penny rate	£178

LIVE BIRTHS

The total number of births was 147, being 80 males and 67 females, 6 males and 1 female being illegitimate. Birth rate per 1,000 of estimated population being 15.79 as compared with 16.2 for the previous year, and 16.7 for England and Wales for the present year.

STILL BIRTHS

The total number of still births was 5, being 2 males and 3 females. Rate per 1,000 total births equals 34 and 0.53 per thousand population, as compared with the rate of 13 and 0.21 respectively for the previous year, and 0.39 for England and Wales for the present year.

DEATHS

During the past year there were 133 deaths registered, these being 68 males and 65 females, equal to a death rate per 1,000 of estimated population of 14.2, as compared with 10.2 for the previous year and 11.7 for England and Wales for the present year.

Death rate of Infants under one year of age :—

All Infants per 1,000 live births	34
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	34
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 live births	Nil
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years) ...	1

ZYMOTIC DEATH RATE

No deaths were attributed to any of the Zymotic diseases.

MAIN CAUSES OF DEATH

Pulmonary Tuberculosis	4
Other Tuberculosis Diseases	1
Cancer	23
Cerebral Haemorrhage	23
Heart Diseases	39
Bronchitis	4
Pneumonia	9
Nephritis	6
Influenza	7
Congenital Debility Premature Birth ...	2
Diabetes	1
Appendicitis	0
Road Traffic Accidents	0
Other Accidents	0
Other defined Diseases	14

RATES FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Rates per 1,000 Civilian Population :—

Live Births	16.7
Still Births	0.39

Deaths :—

All Causes	11.7
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	0.00
Tuberculosis	0.45
Whooping Cough	0.01
Diphtheria	0.00
Influenza	0.15
Smallpox	0.00
Pneumonia	0.51
Acute Poliomyelitis and Polioencephalitis	0.01

Rates per 1,000 Live Births :—

Deaths under 1 year of age	32
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years	3.0

CANCER

Twenty-three persons died from the above disease within the year, being 18 males and 5 females, which is equivalent to 2.4 per 1,000 of the population, and at the rate of 172 per 1,000 deaths registered, as compared with the rate of 2.06 and 202 respectively for the previous year.

TUBERCULOSIS

(New Cases and Mortality during 1949).

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.					DEATHS.				
	Respira-		Non-			Respira-		Non-		
	tory.		tory.			tory.		tory.		
	M	F	M	F		M	F	M	F	
0—1	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
1—5	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
5—10	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
10—15	0	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
15—20	0	1	1	0	...	0	0	0	0	
20—25	3	1	0	2	...	0	1	0	0	
25—35	0	1	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
35—45	1	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
45—55	1	0	0	0	...	0	0	0	0	
55—65	1	0	0	0	...	1	0	1	0	
65 & upwards	1	0	0	0	...	1	0	0	0	
	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	
Totals	7	3	1	2	...	2	2	1	0	
	—	—	—	—		—	—	—	—	

It is satisfactory to note that only 13 cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year, these being 7 males and 3 females respiratory, and one male and two females non-respiratory. The rate is equal to 1.3 per 1,000 population.

The number notified during the previous year was also 13, being 9 males and 3 females respiratory, and one female non-respiratory.

Five deaths were attributed to Tuberculosis, being 3 males and 2 females, one of these being non-respiratory.

The rate per 1,000 deaths registered is 37, and equal to a rate per 1,000 of the population of 0.53, as compared with 0.45 for England and Wales.

It is to be hoped that in the near future Mass Radiology will be more extensively utilised, and also that Institutional accommodation for the treatment of cases will be more available.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The incidence of notifiable diseases (with the exception of Measles) has again this year been remarkably low.

The undermentioned cases were notified :—

Scarlet Fever	5
Erysipelas	2
Pneumonia	8
Whooping Cough	10
Measles	183

SCARLET FEVER—

The five cases of this disease occurred in different localities, and were of a very mild nature.

MEASLES—

The epidemic of measles started at the end of March. It gradually spread throughout the District, and continued to the end of the year. It was of a comparatively mild nature, and no deaths were attributed to the disease.

WHOOPING COUGH—

Only ten cases were notified, all of which occurred during the first two months of the year.

DIPHTHERIA PROPHYLAXIS

not a single case of Diphtheria was reported in the District during the year, which definitely proves the very high efficiency of Immunisation against the disease. This emphasises the great importance of continuing the prophylaxis without relaxation, and also it indicates the responsibility on the part of the parents, and all who are in charge of children, to see that all are immunised.

The percentage of children immunised in the District is approximately 99.9, which is about the highest that can possibly be attained in any area.

Estimates of the population aged under 15 in the District, as at 30th June 1949, have been prepared by the Registrar General, and are furnished for use with the Statistics of Diphtheria immunisation.

Number of children age 0—4 years inclusive	744
Number of children age 5—14 years inclusive	1232
Total	1976

The number immunised during the year were :—

Children under 5 years	127
Children between 5 and 15 years	6
Total	133

Repeat doses :—

Children under 5 years	15
Children between 5 and 15 years	189
Total	204

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

Public Health Officers.
Laboratory Facilities.
Ambulance Facilities.
Clinic and Treatment Centres.
Hospitals.
Tuberculosis.
Venereal Diseases.
Maternity and Nursing.

These are efficiently organised, but it would be of very great advantage if more Maternity beds were available in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

WATER SUPPLY.

As mentioned in previous reports, many comprehensive schemes of water supply have been formulated for the purpose of affording new or improved supplies throughout the district.

During the year four mains extension schemes were carried out which involved the laying of a new 3ins. main from Galltegfa to Bontuchel, a 3ins. main to the farms around Tyntwll, Llanynys, a 2ins. main to the Glanynys area, Llanynys, and a 4ins. duplicate main to the North Wales Sanatorium, Llangwyfan.

Next year, mains extensions will be carried out, which will afford supplies to Llanelidan School and properties en route, farm areas east of Llanfair Village, and the Village of Graigfechan will be connected to the Cricor Supply in order that the existing source can be discontinued. In conjunction with these schemes, a new service reservoir is to be constructed below the Cricor reservoir.

Other schemes contemplated involve the laying of piped supplies to Waen and Geinas (Aberwheeler), Nantglyn, Gyffylliog district, farm areas in Llanrhaiadr, Derwen and Clocaenog parishes, and areas in the Llanarmon, Llandegla and Llanfair parishes.

During the year 49 additional properties—dwelling houses and farms—were connected to the Council's mains, as well as 11 cattle troughs in fields. These are in addition to supplies to new Council houses which have been erected during the year.

Approximately 60% of houses throughout the Rural District now have piped water supplies, and when the above-mentioned schemes are completed this percentage will be greatly increased.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A Public Inquiry has been held into the subject-matter of the scheme for the abatement of stream pollution, to which I referred to in my last report. Following the Inquiry, further revisions of the scheme have been necessary, but it is hoped that a start will be made in the near future.

DRAINS AND SEWERAGE.

Sixteen cases of defective drainage were dealt with, and in 8 cases new drains were laid.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

During the year fourteen new water closets were provided for existing premises. The great difficulty in obtaining materials and skilled labour to carry out the work militated against greater improvements.

SCAVENGING.

The Council's scheme for the removal of refuse continues to function satisfactorily. A new lorry has been purchased, and a fortnightly collection arranged for all districts. All complaints were investigated and promptly dealt with.

Following inspections carried out during the year :—

24 nuisances existed.

24 were remedied.

SEWERAGE DISPOSAL.

Further progress has been made in the preparation of modern schemes of Sewerage Disposal for nearly all the villages in the district. A Public Inquiry was held into the subject-matter of the scheme for Erryrys Village, and it is hoped that a start will be made on the scheme during 1950. A number of schemes have been submitted to the Welsh Board of Health, and approvals are awaited.

CLASSIFICATION OF VISITS.

Visits in respect of nuisance abatement	108
Visits in respect of drainage work	311
Visits in respect of water supplies	28
Visits to Bakehouses	10
Visits to Slaughterhouses (apart from meat inspection)	0
Visits to Cowsheds and Dairies	52
Visits for Food Inspection	32
Visits to investigate infectious diseases (including T.B.)	9
Re-visits and Disinfection	14

Visits to Factories and Workshops	35
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CLASSIFICATION OF DEFECTS FOUND.

Overcrowding and Dirty Houses	7
Defective Structures	9
W.C. Fittings	11
Stopped Drains	46
Defective Drainage	16
Defective Roofs and Spouting	19
Defective Floors	18
Defective Water Supplies	6
Dampness	24
Number of premises disinfected	9

HOUSING.

Number erected during the year	52
Reconstructed	0

Fifty-two new houses were erected during the year, 42 of these being built by the Council and 10 by private enterprise. Progress was also made on other sites, and it is hoped that next year will see a far larger number of houses completed. There is still a serious shortage of houses in several localities.

INSPECTION OF DWELLINGS DURING THE YEAR.

Total number inspected	168
Total number fit (included in sub-head above)	85
Total number unfit (included in sub-head above)	28
Total number found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation	55

REMEDY OF DEFECTS.

Number of dwellings rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	32
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There is one Authority in the District authorised to operate Milk Heat Treatment plants. The Creamery treat from 8,000 to 22,000 gallons per day during peak periods. Samples were taken for Phosphatase and Methylene Blue Tests, and on no occasion was milk found to be below standard.

FOOD.

The following articles of food were condemned during the year, being unfit for human consumption :—

94½lbs.	of Bacon.
20lbs.	of Ham.
5	Tins of Marmalade.
1	Tin of Beans in Tomato Sauce.
1	Tin of Veal Loaf.
3	Tins of Carrots.
1	Tin of Grapes.
2	Tins of Pork.
6	Tins of Pork Brawn.
4	Tins of Melon and Lemon Jam.
2	Tins of Peeled Plum Tomatoes.
2	Tins of Ideal Milk.
1	Tin of Beetroot.
1	Tin of Vegetable Loaf.
1	Bottle of Tomato Ketchup.

FACTORY AND WORKSHOPS ACT.

Garages	5
Flour Mills	6
Electric Light Works	3
Sawmills	6
Bakehouses	6
Building Trades	5
Butter Factory	1
Others	8
	—
	40
	—

The above were periodically inspected.

PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS WHICH CAN BE
CONTROLLED BY BY-LAWS OR REGULATIONS

There were no offensive trades or hop-pickers in the District.

SCHOOLS

All Elementary Schools within the District were inspected during the year.

RAG FLOCK ACTS 1911 & 1928

There were no premises within the District on which Rag Flock is manufactured, used or sold.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT 1938

Particulars of samples of food and drugs taken under the above Act in the Ruthin Rural District during the year ended the 31st December 1949.

Article.	No. Taken.	Genuine.	Not Genuine, or Sub-Standard.
Milk	11	7	4
Butter	1	1	
Custard Powder...	1	1	
Pepper	1	1	
Rice	1	1	
Cooking Fat	1	1	
Condensed Milk...	1	1	
Jam	1	1	
	—	—	—
Totals	18	14	4
	—	—	—

Three of the four milk samples shown as “not genuine” were slightly below the standard but contained no added water. The fourth sample contained a percentage of added water, and the vendor is being kept under observation.

All the other samples were genuine, and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

D. WYNNE GRIFFITH,

Chief Inspector.

Colwyn Bay.

I wish to express my high appreciation of the very efficient services rendered by Mr. Buckingham, the Clerk to the Council, Mr. Birtwell, the Water Engineer, and Mr. Rees, the Sanitary Inspector, in carrying out their respective duties—which evidently were exceptionally heavy during the year, in view of the important water, drainage and housing schemes which were under consideration.

I have the honour to be,

Your Obedient Servant,

T. O. JONES,

Medical Officer of Health.



